

**CLAIMS**

I claim:

1. A product package, comprising:
  - a product container having an external mating surface; and
  - an outer sleeve retaining said product container, said outer sleeve also including an internal opposing mating surface engaging said external mating surface of said product container.
2. A product package as claimed in claim 1, wherein said external mating surface is a tab and said internal opposing mating surface is a recess.
3. A product package as claimed in claim 2, wherein said tab is resilient.
4. A product package as claimed in claim 2 wherein said outer sleeve is resilient.
5. A product package as claimed in claim 2, wherein said tab and said outer sleeve are resilient.
6. A product package as claimed in claim 1, wherein said external mating surface is a recess and said internal opposing mating surface is a tab.
7. A product package as claimed in claim 6, wherein said tab is resilient.
8. A product package as claimed in claim 6, wherein said outer sleeve is resilient.
9. A product package as claimed in claim 6, wherein said tab and said outer sleeve are resilient.
10. A product package, comprising:
  - a product container having at least one external tab; and
  - a resilient outer sleeve retaining and substantially enclosing said product container, said resilient outer sleeve further including at least one corresponding tab receiving recess matingly engaging said at least one external tab.

11. A product package as claimed in claim 10, wherein said tab is resilient.
12. A product package, comprising:
  - a product container having at least one resilient external tab; and
  - an outer sleeve retaining and substantially enclosing said product container, said outer sleeve further including at least one corresponding tab receiving recess matingly engaging said at least one external tab.
13. A product package as claimed in claim 12 wherein said outer sleeve is resilient.
14. A product package, comprising:
  - a product container having at least one resilient external tab; and
  - an outer sleeve having at least one opening configured to enable said outer sleeve to slide over said product container to retain and substantially enclose said product container and having at least one corresponding internal recess matingly engaged with said at least one resilient external tab.
15. A product package as claimed in claim 12 wherein said outer sleeve is resilient.
16. A product package, comprising:
  - a product container having at least one recess in its outer surface; and
  - an outer sleeve having at least one opening configured to enable said outer sleeve to slide over said product container to retain and substantially enclose said product container and having at least one corresponding resilient internal tab matingly engaged with said at least one recess in the outer surface of said product container.
17. A product package as claimed in claim 16 wherein said outer sleeve is resilient.
18. A method for packaging a product in a product container, comprising the following steps:
  - placing the product in the product container having at least one external mating surface;

inserting the product container into a product packaging enclosure of a shape suitable for retaining and substantially enclosing said product container, said product packaging enclosure having at least one corresponding opposing mating surface; and

engaging said at least one external mating surface and said at least one corresponding opposing mating surface to lock the product container in position within said product packaging enclosure.

19. A method for packaging a product as claimed in claim 18, wherein said external mating surface is a tab and said internal opposing mating surface is a recess, and said step of engaging said at least one external mating surface and said at least one corresponding opposing mating surface to lock the enclosure in position includes inserting said tab into said recess.

20. A method for packaging a product as claimed in claim 19, wherein said tab is resilient, and said step of inserting said product container into said product packaging enclosure includes deflecting said tab as the product container is inserted into the product packaging enclosure and allowing said tab to spring back upon insertion into said recess .

21. A method for packaging a product as claimed in claim 19 wherein said outer sleeve is resilient, and said step of inserting said product container into said product packaging enclosure includes deflecting said product packaging enclosure to pass over said tab as the product container is inserted into the product packaging enclosure and substantially restoring said product packaging enclosure to its intended shape in order to enable said tab to lockingly engage said recess.

22. A method for packaging a product as claimed in claim 19, wherein said tab and said outer sleeve are resilient, and said step of inserting said product container into said product packaging enclosure includes deflecting said tab and deflecting said product packaging enclosure as the product container is inserted into the product packaging enclosure and allowing said tab to spring back upon insertion into said recess and substantially restoring said product packaging enclosure to its intended shape in order to enable said tab to lockingly engage said recess.

23. A method for packaging a product claimed in claim 18, wherein said external mating surface is a recess and said internal opposing mating surface is a tab.

24. A method for packaging a product as claimed in claim 23, wherein said tab is resilient, and said step of inserting said product container into said product packaging enclosure includes

deflecting said tab as the product container is inserted into the product packaging enclosure and allowing said tab to spring back upon insertion into said recess.

25. A method for packaging a product as claimed in claim 23, wherein said outer sleeve is resilient, and said step of inserting said product container into said product packaging enclosure includes deflecting said tab and deflecting said product packaging enclosure as the product container is inserted into the product packaging enclosure and allowing said tab to spring back upon insertion into said recess and substantially restoring said product packaging enclosure to its intended shape in order to enable said tab to lockingly engage said recess .

26. A method for packaging a product as claimed in claim 23, wherein said tab and said outer sleeve are resilient, and said step of inserting said product container into said product packaging enclosure includes deflecting said tab and deflecting said product packaging enclosure as the product container is inserted into the product packaging enclosure and allowing said tab to spring back upon insertion into said recess and substantially restoring said product packaging enclosure to its intended shape in order to enable said tab to lockingly engage said recess.

27. A product packaging assembly to prevent product pilfering, comprising:

a molded tray shaped to contain a specified product and having at least one indentation disposed along at least one edge to function as part of a locking mechanism; and

a sleeve retaining said molded tray having at least one extended tab disposed along an internal edge matingly interlocking with said at least one indentation.

28. The assembly as claimed in claim 27 wherein said molded tray has at least one depression disposed along one end of the molded tray to prevent access to the contents while said molded tray is locked within said sleeve.

29. The assembly as claimed in claim 27 wherein said molded tray is comprised of halves, each of which incorporates at least one shaped receiving cavity in order to substantially surround the specific contents when the halves are folded together.

30. The assembly as claimed in claim 27 wherein said external sleeve is formed by a single piece of material folded over itself and secured at the external edge.

31. A packaging assembly to prevent product pilfering comprising:

a molded tray shaped to contain a specified product and having at least one tab disposed along an edge to function as part of a locking mechanism; and

a sleeve retaining said molded tray having at least one corresponding indentation disposed along an internal edge of said sleeve matingly interlocking with said at least one tab.

32. The assembly as claimed in claim 31 wherein said molded tray has a plurality of shaped receiving cavities to hold specific contents.

33. The assembly as claimed in claim 31 wherein said molded tray has at least one depression disposed along at least one end of the molded tray and at least one depression disposed along at least one end of the molded tray to prevent access to the contents while said molded tray is locked within said sleeve.

34. The assembly as claimed in claim 31 wherein said molded tray is comprised of halves, each of which incorporates at least one shaped receiving cavity in order to substantially surround the specific contents when the halves are folded together.

35. The assembly as claimed in claim 31 wherein said external sleeve is formed by a single piece of material folded over and secured at the external edge.

36. A packaging assembly to prevent product pilfering comprising:

an outer sleeve of tapered shape configured so that the openings of the sleeve are different sizes and containing at least one notched internal edge; and

a clamshell molded tray configured to fully enclose a specific product and to be partially inserted within said outer sleeve, said tray having at least one extended tab matingly engaging with said at least one notched internal edge of said outer sleeve.

37. The assembly as claimed in claim 36 wherein said outer sleeve is comprised of a single piece of material folded over and secured at the external edge.